

butterflies that have been reported from Sarepta, and which we expected to come across. The most notable of these was *Pontia chloridice*, which we were much disappointed not to find anywhere, although a sharp look-out was kept for it, and every swift-winged white that there was the slightest suspicion of was diligently netted, when this was possible. Other species that we expected to see, but did not, included *Satyrus autone*, *S. hippolyte*, *Oeneis tarpeia*, *Triphysa phryne*, and *Scolitantides bavius*; probably we left too early for the first two species, and arrived too late for the third and fourth; with respect to the last-named butterfly, it is, I believe, always rare in Russia, and possibly it occurred further afield than we were able to work.

We were at Sarepta from May 19th until June 23rd, between which dates the weather was almost perfect; bright sun from morning until evening on almost every day was our fortunate lot; and there was always a cool and most invigorating breeze to temper its rays.

On June 23rd we started on the return journey, travelling up the Volga as far as Nijni Novgorod, a distance of about 1200 miles, which took the steamer six days to accomplish. The Volga boats are excellent, well fitted up, and the cuisine arrangements exceedingly good; the voyage, apart from being a little monotonous, is interesting, and after our hard work was very restful and enjoyable.

I was struck with Nijni Novgorod and its district as an entomological centre; it is in the neighbourhood of what looks like a great deal of promising country, which should repay investigation. From Nijni to Moscow is only ten hours by rail; after staying a few days at the latter city I came straight to England, parting from Mr. Jones at Warsaw, en route for the Tyrol.

AUSTRALIAN HALICTINE BEES.

BY T. D. A. COCKERELL.

Parasphecodes atronitens, sp. n.

♀. Length about $9\frac{1}{2}$ mm.; entirely black, the flagellum obscure brown beneath; clypeus shining, strongly but not densely punctured, and with a short median sulcus; front appearing granular, more or less glistening, especially at sides; hair of face and front very scanty, fuscous, but at sides of face appearing pale and glistening in some lights; cheeks with shining white hair; mesothorax dull, extremely densely punctured, the punctures clearly visible under a lens; scutellum dullish, densely very minutely punctate, with a depressed median line or sulcus; area of metathorax minutely and obscurely subpiculate basally, and with a raised median line, but otherwise without sculpture; tubercles with a dense fringe of greyish white hair;

mesothorax and scutellum with scanty fuscous hair; tegulae piceous, shining dark reddish posteriorly; wings dusky hyaline, stigma and nervures sepia, outer nervures weakened; first r. n. joining second s. m. at extreme apex; middle and hind tibiae and tarsi with fuscous hair on outer side; first two abdominal segments shining, finely punctured, the others dull, and without distinct punctures, except the piliferous ones; venter with silvery white hair, on the apical segments with fuscous.

Hab. Calsundra, Queensland, October 30th, 1912 (H. Hacker; Queensland Museum, 88). Closely related to *P. plorator*, Ckll., but the wings are not so dark, and the punctured first two abdominal segments are highly distinctive. *P. fumidicauda*, Ckll., is larger, and has a very different metathorax.

Halictus melanopterus, sp. n.

♀. Length nearly 10 mm.; black, including the legs and antennae; head broad, with white hair, which is thin on face, conspicuous on cheeks; long pale golden hairs from a fringe below lower margin of clypeus; clypeus and supraclypeal area shining, distinctly but not densely punctured; front entirely dull except at sides, where it is somewhat glistening; thorax with thin white hair, quite abundant on pleura, mesothorax and scutellum with inconspicuous fuscous hair; tubercles (as seen from in front) ending in a point; mesothorax and scutellum shining, very finely and quite closely punctured; scutellum sulcate in middle; area of metathorax large, bulging at sides, very finely roughened, without distinct sculpture; posterior truncation shining; tegulae rufopiceous; wings strongly stained with blackish, stigma rufopiceous, nervures sepia; outer r. n. and t. c. weakened; second s. m. broad, receiving first r. n. a short distance before end; hind legs with dark fuscous hair over knees; abdomen shining, very finely punctured; long-triangular patches of dull white tomentum at basal sides of segments 2 to 4; apex with dark fuscous hair; no ventral scopa.

Hab. Yallingup, near Cape Naturaliste, S.-W. Australia, September 14th–October 31st, 1913 (R. E. Turner). British Museum. *H. melanopterus* is very near *H. instabilis*, Ckll., but larger, with darker wings and darker stigma, and the abdominal bands not entire. The abdomen is much like that of *H. circumdatus*, Ckll., but the metathorax is quite different. It is much larger than *H. chapmani*, Ckll., and is readily known from *H. convexus*, Sm., by its dark wings.

Halictus disclusus, sp. n.

♂. Length about 6 mm.; black, with the first three abdominal segments bright chestnut-red, but the first dark basally and with a large dusky median cloud, second and third segments with a dark spot at each laterobasal corner; knees, tibiae and tarsi ferruginous, the tibiae (the first slightly, the last most) stained with blackish; head broad, eyes strongly converging below; clypeus prominent, with a broad pale yellow apical band; labrum black; mandibles whitish

in middle, red apically; face and front with dull white hair; antennæ long (reaching to end of thorax), entirely black; flagellum crenulate beneath; mesothorax and scutellum dull, the surface microscopically tessellate, the very minute punctures not clearly visible under a lens; area of metathorax finely and weakly plicatulate, the sculpture fading toward the apex; hair of thorax thin, dull white, with a faintly yellowish tint on scutellum; tegulæ black; wings dusky hyaline, stigma and nervures reddish sepia; second s. m. very narrow; abdomen shining.

Hab. Eaglehawk Neck, S.-E. Tasmania, February 12th-March 3rd, 1913 (R. E. Turner). British Museum. Resembles *H. tasmaniæ* (Ckll.), but easily known by the dull mesothorax. The black antennæ and absence of metallic colour separate it from *H. hedleyi*, Ckll.

A SUCCESSFUL HUNT FOR SOME OF OUR LOCAL CRAMBI.

BY THE REV. JOHN W. METCALFE, F.E.S.

THE following notes are put together mainly with a view to the possible usefulness to others of our experience gained in collecting certain Crambi, which, if plentiful in their restricted haunts, are not only very local but may easily be missed owing to their retiring habits. Incidentally a few other local species will be mentioned, which are not commonly taken in such numbers as we were fortunate enough to meet with. My companions on this expedition, which lasted from July 13th to 31st, were the Revs. W. G. Whittingham and J. E. Tarbat, and it is well to mention at once that the weather was as adverse throughout the whole time as it well could be—wet, cold, and windy, a fact which made our subsequent success the more noteworthy.

Our first halting place was a very happily situated boarding house in the middle of the well-known Deal sandhills. If the accommodation it afforded was not palatial, the position was all that the collector could desire. During the ten days we spent there we were pleased to see *Lithosia lutarella* var. *pygmæola* in profusion; indeed, whatever the weather was like it appeared on the wing or sitting on the marram in great numbers. By day *M. lineata*, *H. cespitalis*, *C. angustalis*, and *S. ictericana* were common, but *A. ochrata* was practically over. However, our special object of desire was *C. contaminellus*, and the stirring of an occasional specimen by day from the marram gave us the cheering assurance that it was about. Yet not till we discovered that at night it loves to sit an inch or two above the ground, on the patches bare of marram, did we secure it in any numbers. From this discovery onwards we took it in plenty, together